(e) Does not arise in view of the reply to part (c) and (d) above.

Increase in the write off limit of bad debts by banks

115. SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SAMBHAJIRAO SHINDE:
SHRI RAJNI RANJAN SAHU:
SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA:
SHRI RAJUBHAI A. PARMAR:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Commercial Banks have been allowed to write off individual bad debts to the tune of Rs. 25 lacs in place of Rs. 25,000/- only, as at present;

(b) if so, the reasons for the ten times increase in this limit; and

(c) the steps contemplated to prevent misuse of the enchanced limit facility to the detriment of the public interest?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M. V. CHANDRASHEKHAR MURTHY): (a) Reserve Bank of India has reported that no such instruction have been issued to commercial banks.

(b) and (c) Do not arise in view of the reply to (a) above.

Representation received from leather Chemicals Manufacturers' Association

116. SHRI RAJUBHAI A. PARMAR:
SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SAMBHAJIRAO SHINDE:
SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA:
SHRI RAJNI RANJAN SAHU:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a representation has been received from Leather Chemicals Manufacturers' Association about the adverse impact of relxation in import duties on finished products and increase in excise duties on indigenous products;

(b) if so, what was their precise plea and what is the difference in average prices of indigenous products and corresponding imported items, inclusive of all duties and costs involved in imports; and

(c) what is the Government's response thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M. V. CHANDRASHEKHAR MURTHY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Association has requested for the following changes;

(i) Imposition of Countervailing duty on leather chemicals specified in Notification No. 45/94-Customs dated the 1st March, 1994.

(ii) To allow import of raw materials and intermediates for manufacture of leather chemicals at concessional rates of import duty; and

(iii) Restriction on import of leather chemicals and their raw materials to actual users through appropriate control mechanism.

As per information readily available, the reported prices in respect of some of the leather chemicals are given in the enclosed Statement. (*See below*)

(c) That matter is under examination.